

PUBLIC HEALTH

**ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER WASHINGTON**

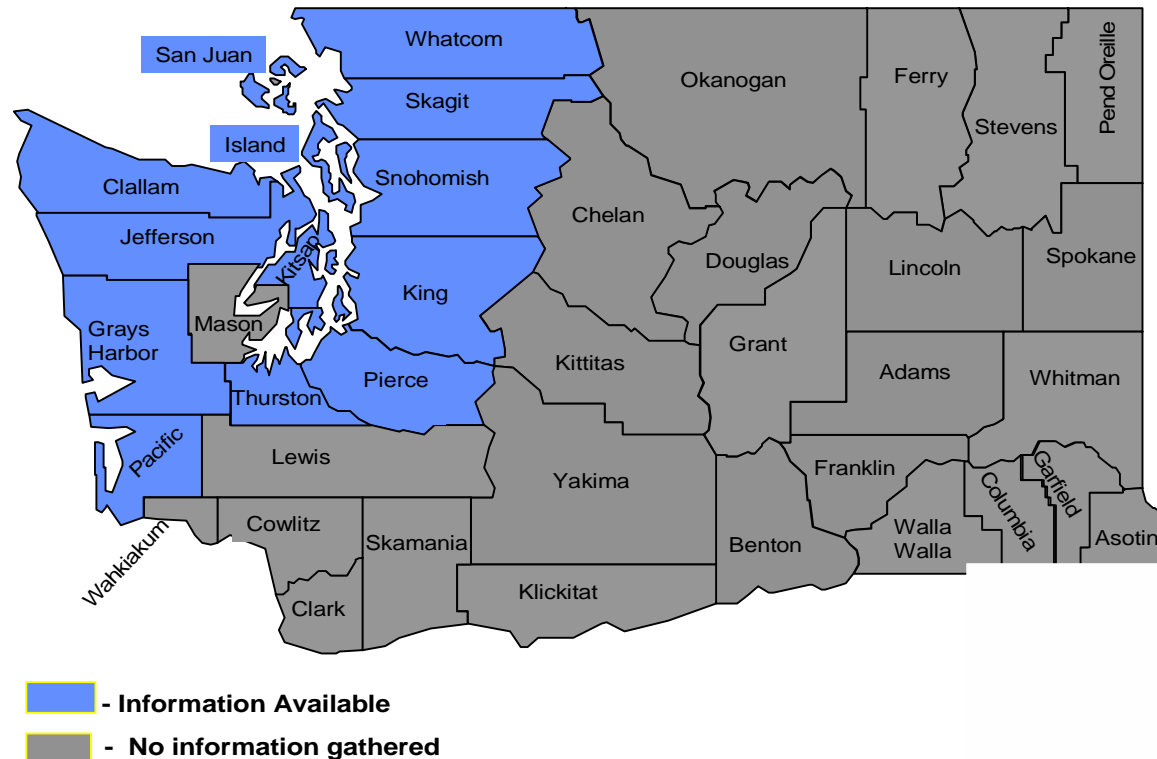
Septic Operation and Maintenance in Marine Counties—Survey of Current Practices

Washington State Board Of Health

October 6, 2004

Overview

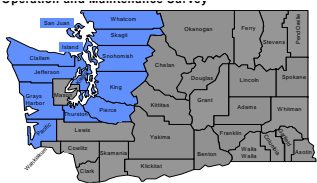
- Survey area: Puget Sound and Pacific Counties
- 13 of 14 counties reporting





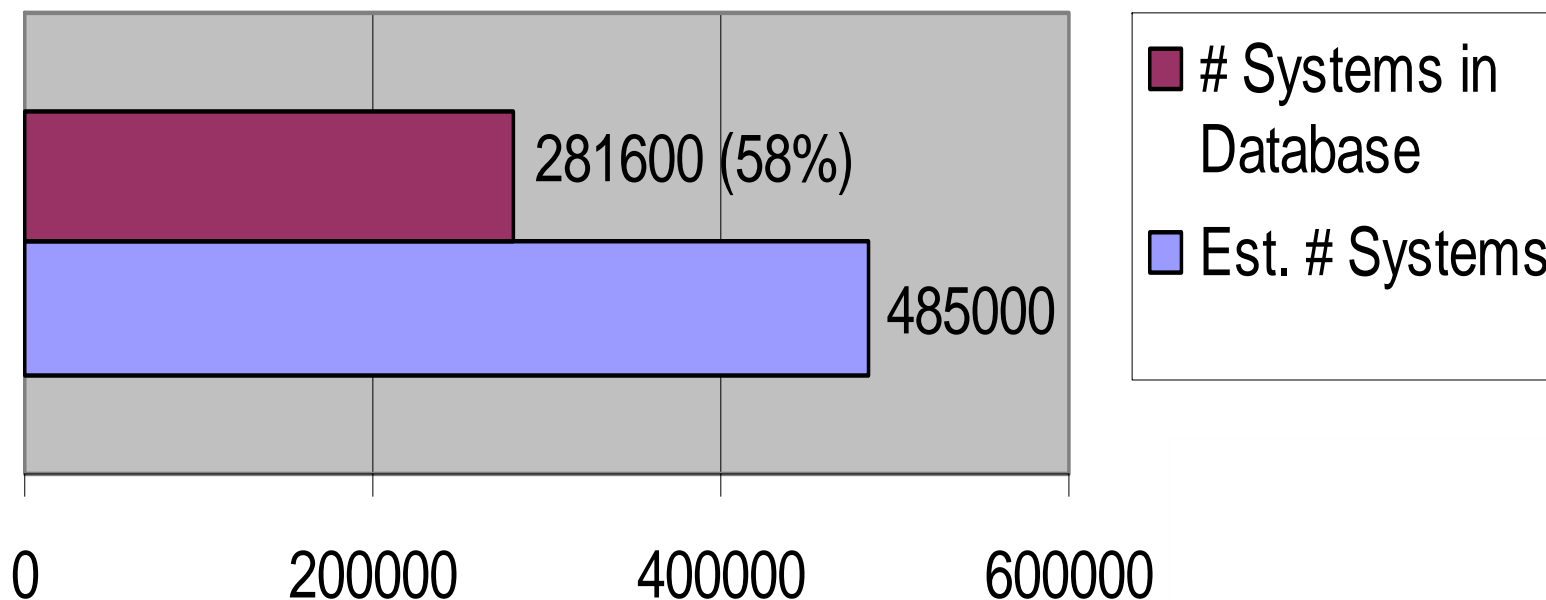
Overview

- Programs are varied & based on:
 - Support by public and by political leaders
 - Requires ample information and education of policy makers and stakeholders
 - What addresses the highest risk to Public Health
 - Available resources

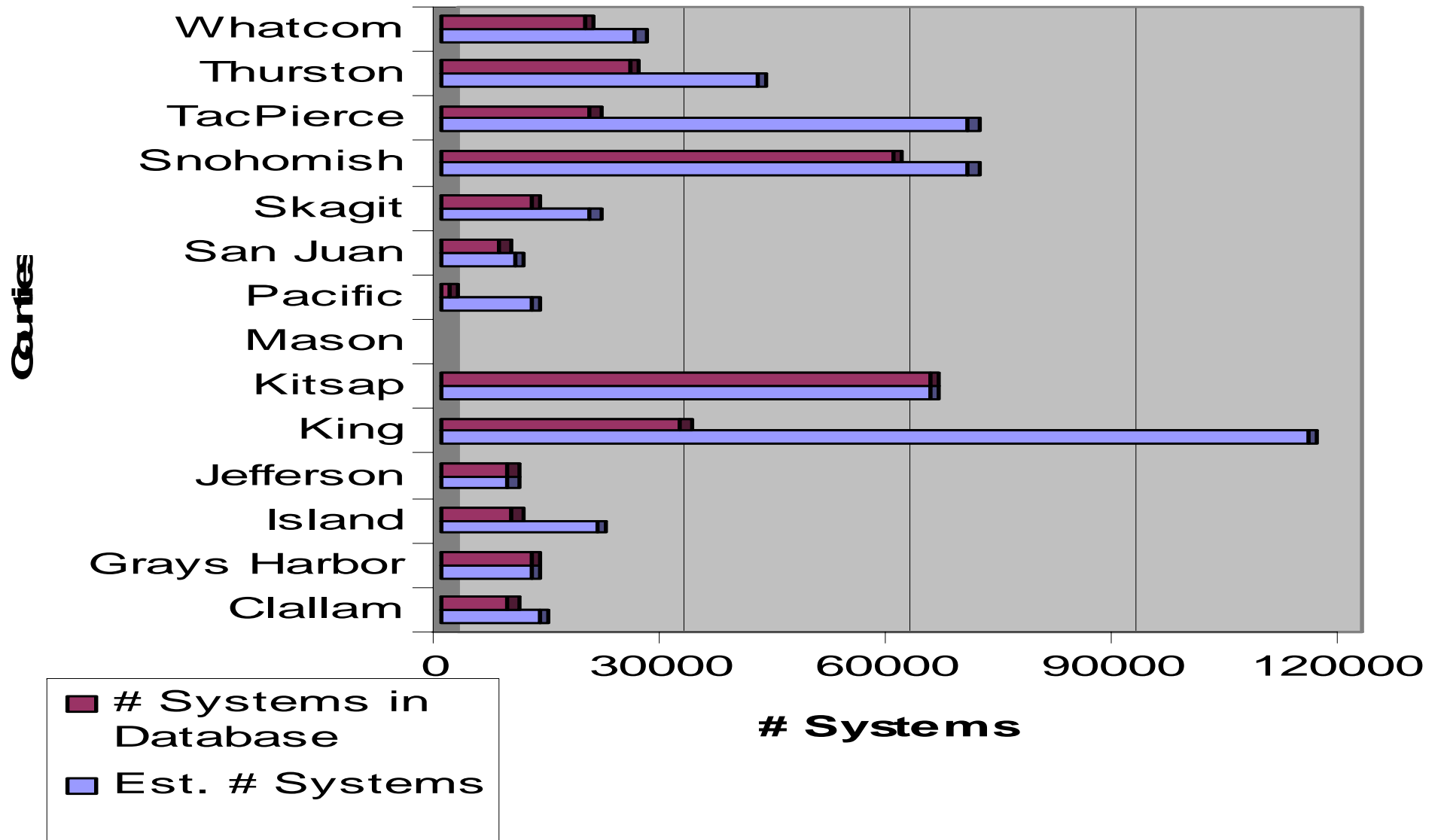


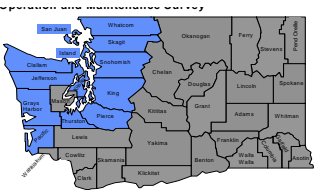
Electronic Inventory

- All 13 LHJs have some form of database with OSS information
 - Only a portion of the systems are in a database



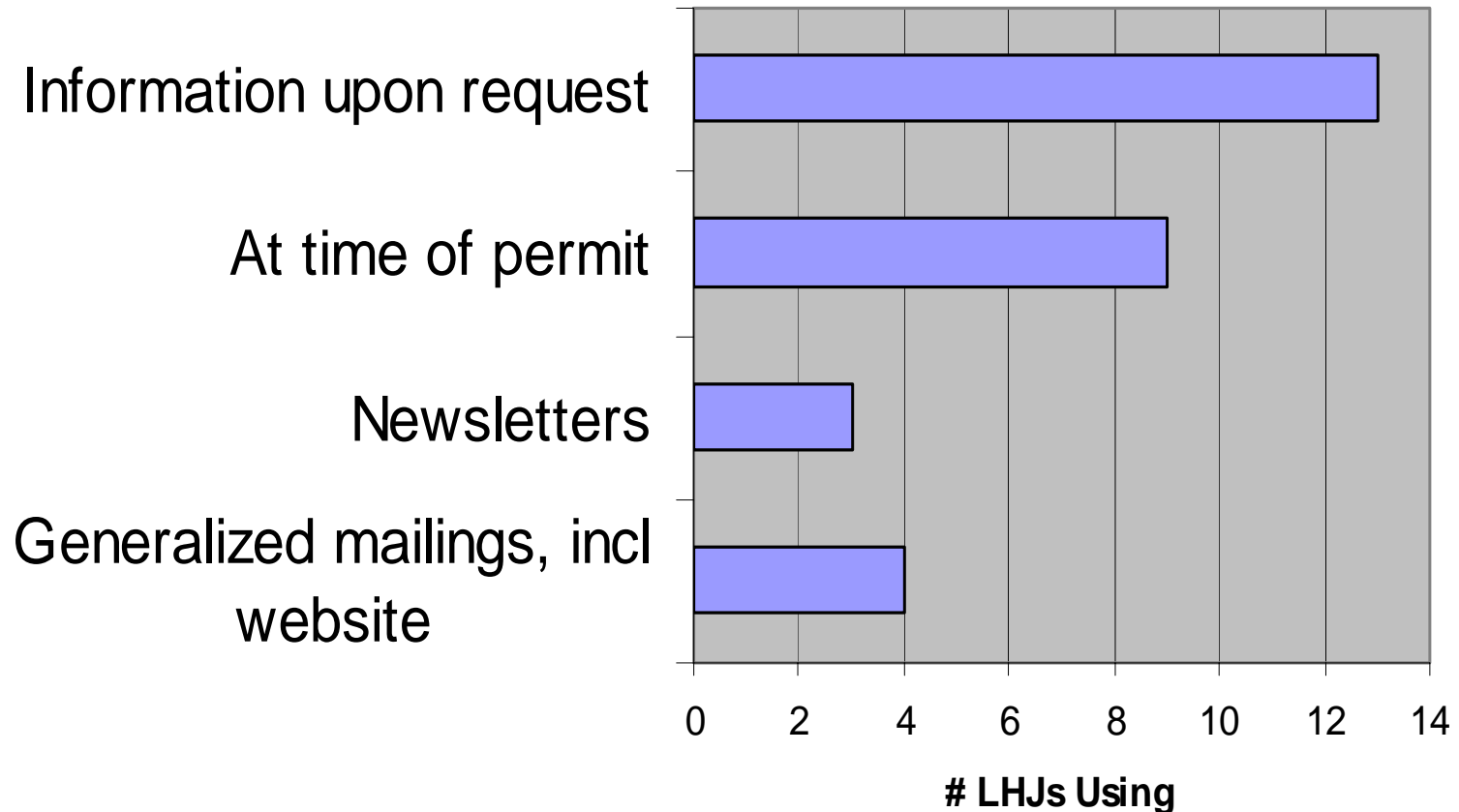
Onsite Sewage Inventory By County

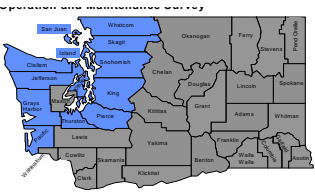




Educational Efforts

- All 13 use some form of generalized education





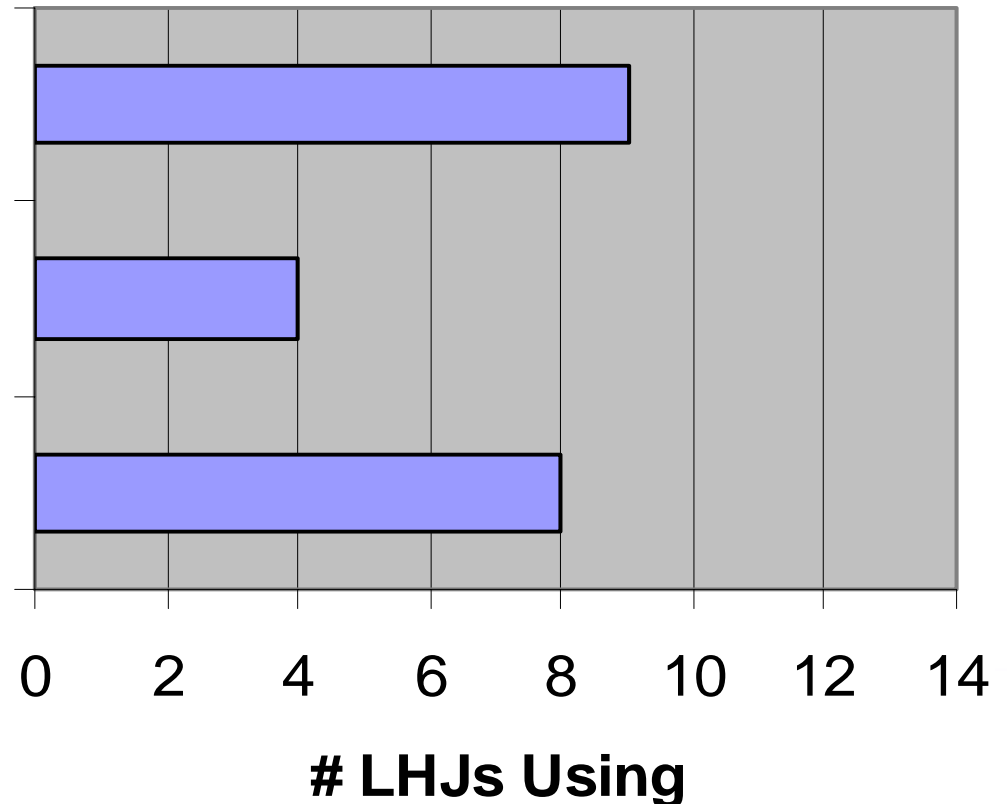
Educational Efforts

- 12 use some form of targeted education

Public information meetings or workshops

Mailings e.g. 6 months after system is finalized

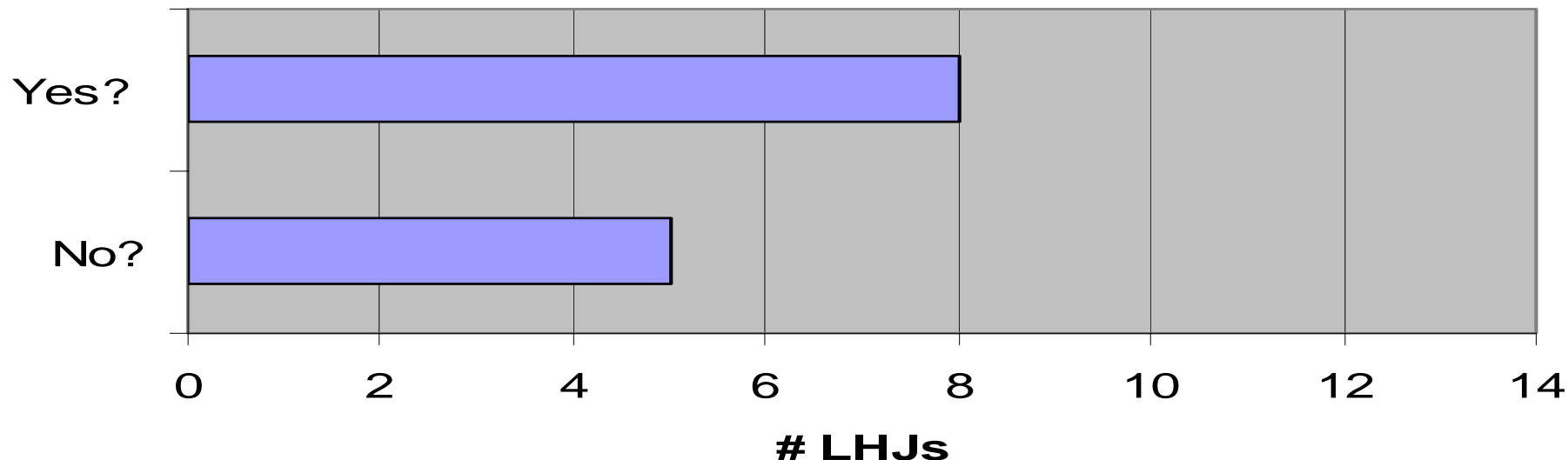
By system type or system risk



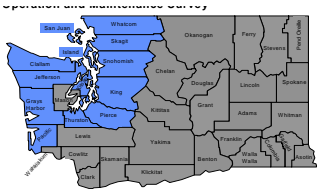


Educational Efforts

- Intend to become more targeted:

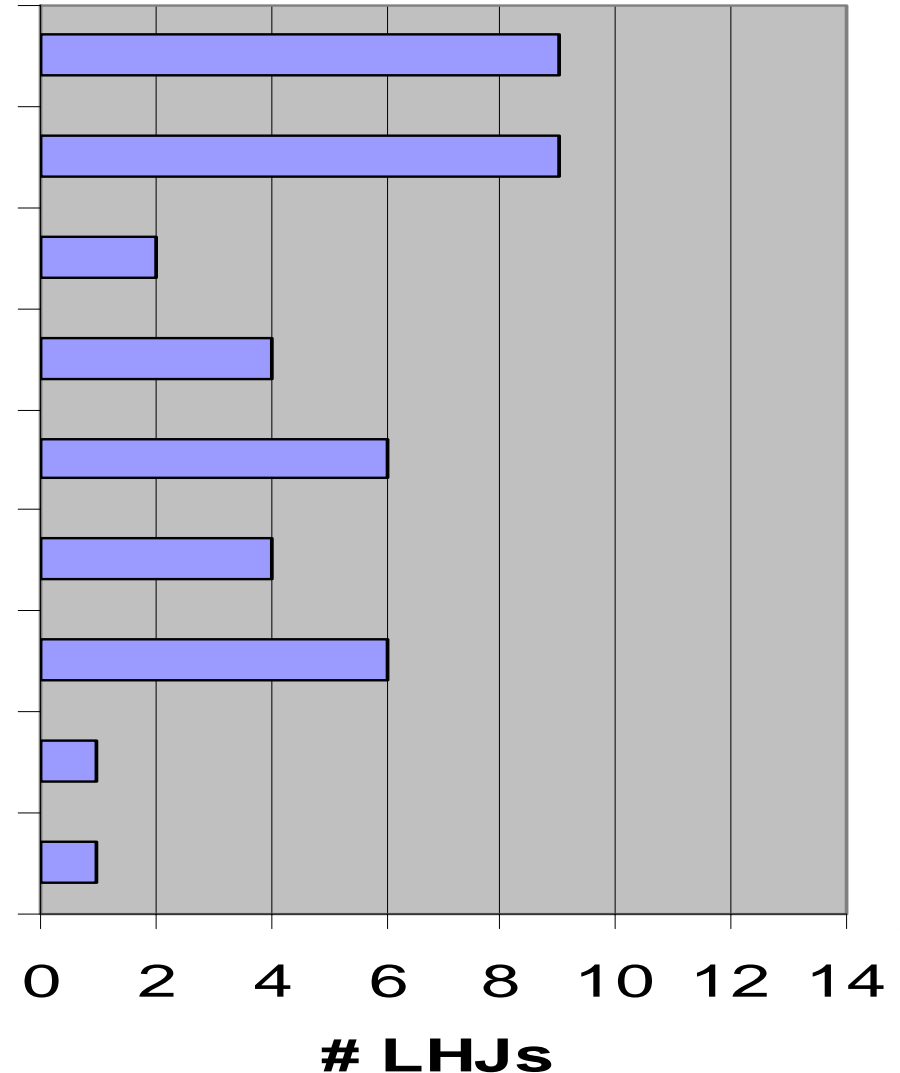


- Challenges:
 - Time, Staff, Funding
 - Electronic access to records
 - Getting system owners attention



Beyond Educational Efforts

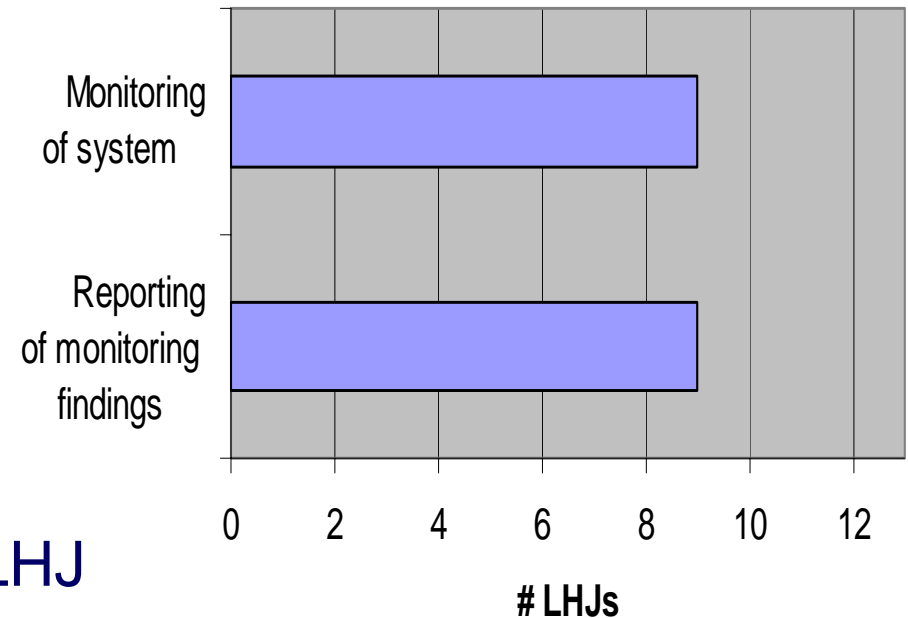
Monitoring of system
Reporting of monitoring findings
Follow-up inspections 6 months after final inspection
Regular tank pumping
Notification of system owner of services needed
Operational permits
Property deed notification
Prosecution
Other





Beyond Educational Efforts

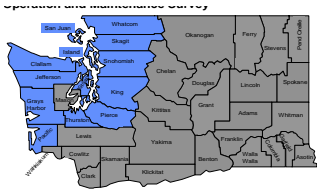
- Monitoring & Reporting
 - Focus on:
 - Alternative Systems
 - High Risk Systems
 - Tools:
 - Renewable permits
 - O&M agreements
 - Random inspections by LHJ
 - At time of real estate transaction
 - Private sector service providers





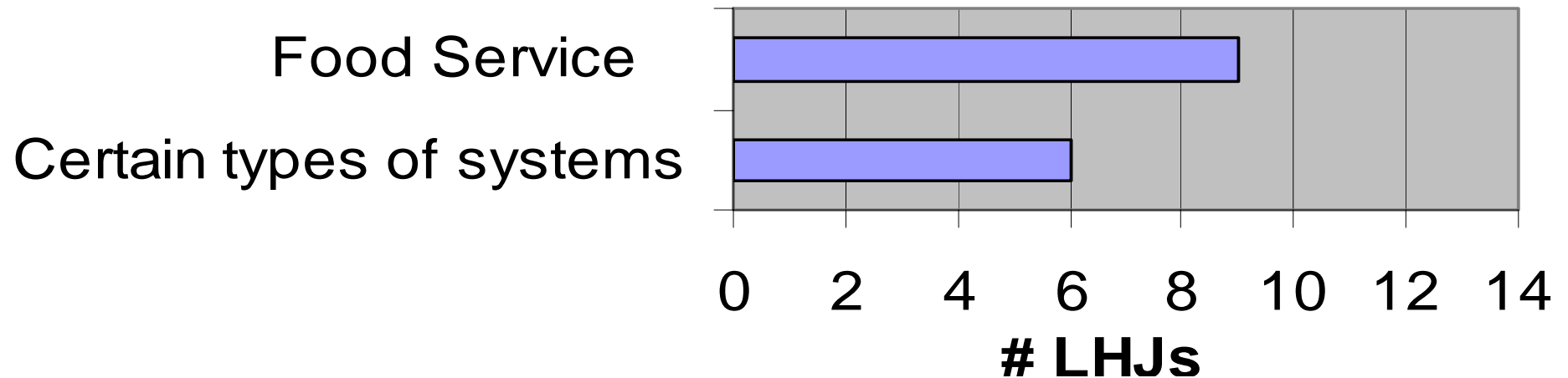
Beyond Educational Efforts

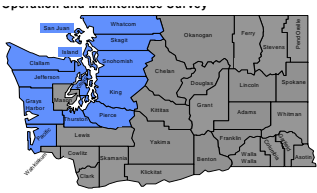
- Notification of services needed
 - Some types of systems
 - High risk systems
 - Reduced size drainfields
 - Food service
 - Real estate transactions



Beyond Educational Efforts

- General focus of O&M programs





Beyond Educational Efforts

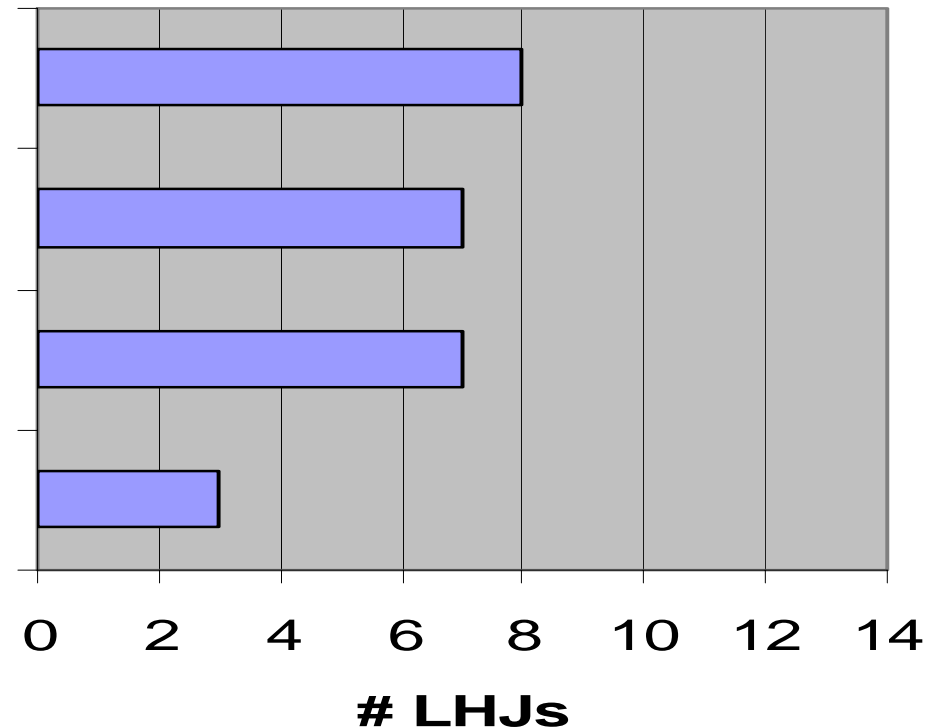
- High risk areas identified

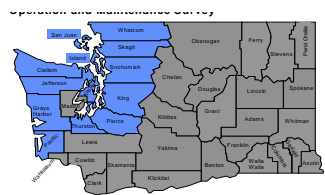
Marine shoreline and
freshwater tributaries

Shellfish protection
areas

Aquifer recharge areas

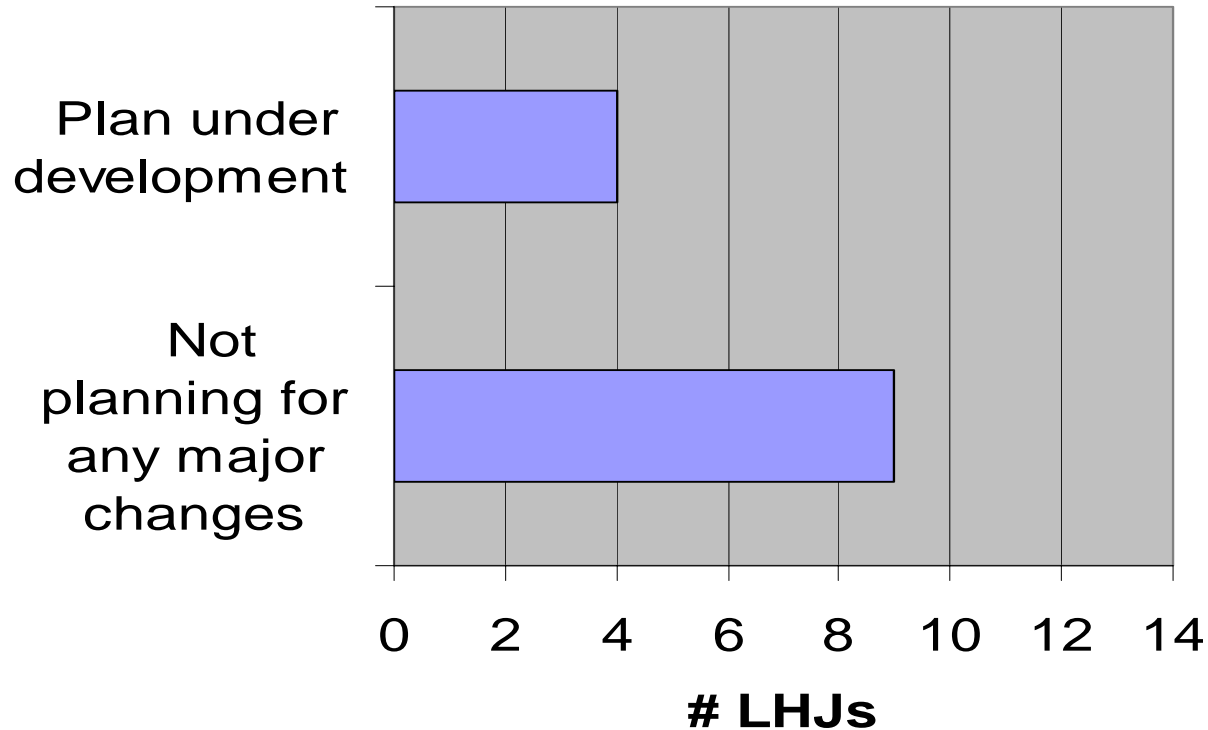
Designated wellhead
protection areas

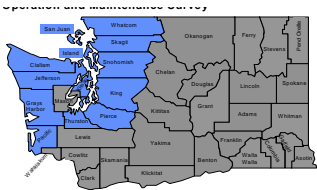




Beyond Educational Efforts

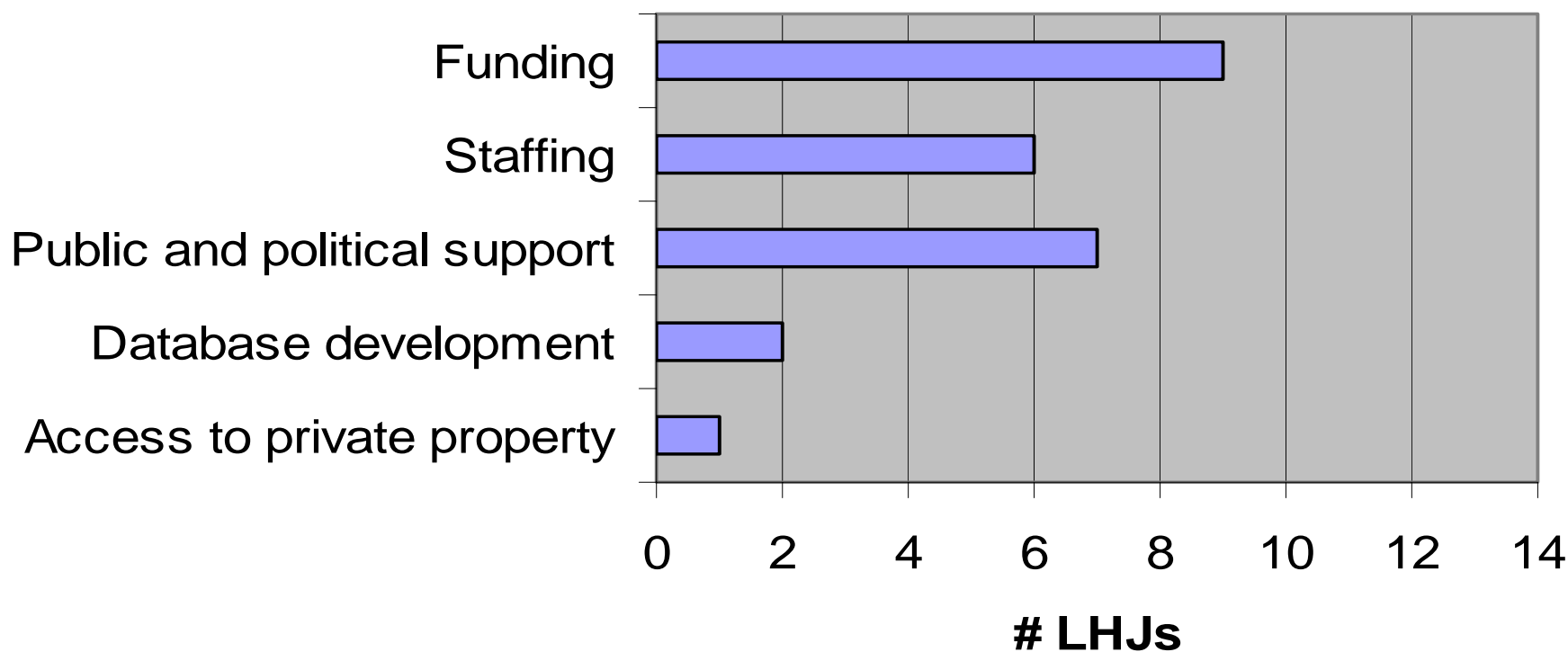
- Plans to change how high risk areas are addressed:

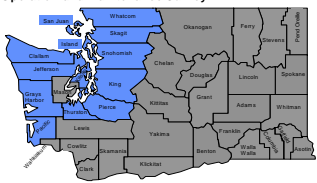




Challenges to Monitoring in All High Risk Settings

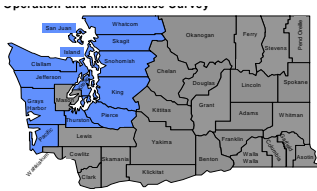
- Most common:





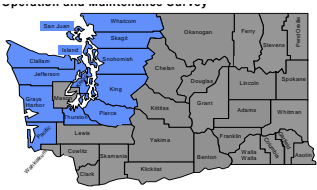
Challenges to Monitoring in All High Risk Settings

- Also listed:
 - High O&M costs
 - Rental and part-time properties
 - O&M provider continuity
 - Uniformity and competency of industry



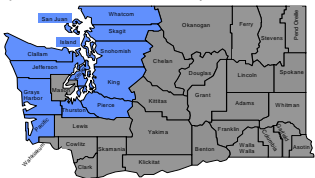
Summary

- O&M programs in region vary
 - Based on:
 - Staffing and funding resources
 - Political and public support
 - Program elements that address locally determined higher risks and priorities



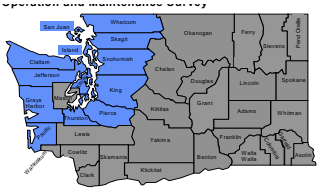
Summary

- Database capability is improving and percent of total systems in databases is increasing
- All LHJs in survey are actively engaged in educational efforts
- Some LHJs have educational efforts that are targeted at system types or geographic areas



Summary

- Education and information are key to public acceptance and political support
- Funding and staffing resources for O&M are applied first to high risk systems and site conditions
- Permitting events and real estate transactions are commonly used for adding systems to a database and requiring monitoring



Stories from some LHJs

- Eastside

- Klickitat
- Lincoln
- NE TriCounty
- Spokane
- Walla Walla
- Yakima

- Westside

- King
- Kitsap
- Pacific
- Skagit
- Tac-Pierce
- Thurston

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